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OUR FRENCH LETTER.

(Correspondence of the HERALD.)

PARIS, July 19.
We are a shade calmer after the excitement of the fete, which was really brilliant and successful, and the bombardment of Alexandria, with the flight of Arabi and his co-communists. Last July the French bombarded and burned Spax, trying to catch Kroumirs, but then they had Tunisia and its independent Bey, compulsory converts to liberty, equality, and fraternity.

The gallophobia is a degree or two less rabid; cool heads commence to see it is better after all to pull with England; if the latter be left to clear away Arabi and his salvation army, she might be very indisposed, it is guessed, to retire from Egypt. It is a pity that there is not a sufficient force of red coats and blue jackets to make an ugly, but salutary rush at Arabi's camp, and so dispose at once of the imbroglio and the conference—between which there is no great difference.

It is to be hoped that the lull in the English armaments will be but of short duration; to display weakness in following up the admirable blow England has struck in Alexandria, would be to neutralize its excellent effects throughout the entire east. Brother Jonathan has won golden opinions by being the first to land his tars to help the English. As at the storming of the Peiho Forts some years ago, the American admiral also struck in, alleging that blood was thicker than water. The German sailors debarking and protecting the French hospital and nuns, while the French fleet was conspicuous by its studied absence, has been a sore pill for many to swallow. It will be more bitter still when the cabinet shall have to thank Prince Bismarck for the courtesy.

The chances are that France will join in the international police force to be organized by the conference; but as M. de Freycinet has bound himself to only join the concentration when he should have received permission from the Chamber, that permission must depend upon the caprices of the deputies. Gambetta will never be able to oust de Freycinet so long as the latter sticks to the role of simply executing the orders of parliament. This will at the same time make other governments very shy of drawing the bonds of amity very close with France. As for England, she will never be more valued by the French than when she relinquishes alliance hunting and ententes cordiales; the strongest bond of union for England is, her firm resolution to manage her own business in her own way, and feeling to be in the right, display the most profound indifference for French or any other nation's assent or dissent. England can afford to live a programme of her own.

The bold stroke of business at Alexandria has convinced French Anglophobes, that the arm of England has not become shortened, and that a few courageous men can dispose of bandits, erroneously presumed to be soldiers. In the Egyptian army, only the artillery had a reputation, and which it alone maintained in Abyssinia and Turkey; but an army in a state of despotism and anarchy, cannot profitably avail itself of Krupp cannon and improved mitrailleuses. Arabi, till the bursting of his bubble reputation, was important, simply owing to England and France employing only threats; their united action proving but a joke, augmented his pride and confidence, and he finished by believing himself invincible, as the fakirs assured him he was invulnerable. The Egyptian movement was the product of the barracks, developed by fanaticism, ignorance, and cupidity; from a military *emeute*, it had become a religious revolution, a holy war against the Christians. No one laughed more at the liberal, social, and emancipatory projects attributed to him, than Arabi himself. Of the French ideas with which he was said to be inspired, he borrowed none, but the practices and incendiaries of the commune. To the qualities of the barbarian he added its vices, and so was fitly qualified to replunge Egypt into Islamism, bondage and savagery.

Even the monarchical press has had to admit the 14th of July fete was eminently successful. In the decorations of the streets and houses there was more method, and if not more taste, greater ingenuity. The ancient streets were most bedecked, just like old beauties who have recourse to accessions to repair the ravages of time. Although the authorities had forbidden the use of squibs in the streets, never were so many let off by big, as well as little boys. The festival was kept up for three days, and is now accepted as an institution. If ever a dynasty be destined to succeed the French republic, it will find it difficult to silence manifestations on the 14th of July. Indeed the legitimists observed their fete on the 15th, in honor of the Comte de Chambord. But charity compels no allusion to the proceedings of those who have still the medicine of hope. In one of the street feral arches, a wag during the night, had replaced the bust of Dame Republic, by that of the Prince Imperial. The violation of a vestal virgin was nothing compared with this desecration; after loading the bust with every mark of indignity, a workman smashed the fragments amongst the crowd. The banquet at the Hotel de Ville was, in its ceremonials, democratic itself, but the cheer could not have been out-rivalled by a czar. When the committee of public safety oc-

cupied the old building, the cradle of liberty, it was with fear and trembling the members voted themselves refreshments limited to sugar and water. The municipal council believe they have converted M. Grevy to their extreme views, and he is confident, he has rallied them to the conservative republic. At table, Mercy and Truth were side by side, in the persons of the Turkish and English ambassadors. The next important individual was the lord mayor of Bucharest, all in silver, and shining like a harlequin. High-sheriff Benneff, of London, was still more conspicuous in his scarlet uniform and monster epaulettes; I remember at the opening of the 1878 exhibition, he was taken for the Duke of Cambridge; I think he was also accepted on the present occasion as the commander of the forces. "Watchman, what of the knights." Another notoriety was the specimen *cantonier*, or street-waterer, in his blouse uniform, for there was a representative of every body employed under the municipality, even to the police.

The prettiest sight was the march past of 500 scholars, in military uniform; these lads—the soldiers of to-morrow, really excited well-deserved applause. They are pupils of the city primary schools, and receive gratuitously military drill. Other countries would do well to look into this idea, especially as the best "sojer boys," ever prove to be the most exemplary pupils.

The review of the army of Paris took place in the Bois de Boulogne, the sole suitable and picturesque ground near the capital for the purpose. The fact of double the number of tickets being issued than the stands can accommodate explains why so many persons arrive before the usual time. The sun of "Messidor" shone strongly, but not fiercely. The marching part was the same routine as ever. The fire brigade was unanimously cheered. These brave fellows never know peace or truce. Only the day before seventeen of their body and an officer were blown up by an explosion of gas while endeavoring to save the occupants of a house in flames. The artillery was excellent as ever, the axes rolled as one; the infantry left rather a good deal to desire; the cavalry has made progress; the wiry, fiery Arab steeds kept close together and neat in line. The cuirassiers rode well, but the crowd only cheers, never criticizes, the representatives of Reichschoffen.

Boulogne-sur-Mer not only produces great men, but honors them after their decease. It is thus that Mariette Bey, the celebrated Egyptologist, has just had his statue inaugurated. He has for a pedestal a pyramid, with sphinxes guarding the base; he is himself represented in frock coat and top hat. From the mixed character of the population of Boulogne-sur-Mer, it is difficult to decide, whether it was the French or the English that predominated at the proceedings. "God save the Queen," was executed as frequently as the "Marseillaise," and every Frenchman felt in duty bound to speak English, and every English visitor, French. Born in 1821, Mariette when a boy, fell in love with a mummy, in the well-stocked museum of his native town; then he practiced hieroglyphics for pot hooks and hangers; his light literature consisted of works bearing upon the Shepherd Kings and the Rameses. Ultimately he was sent on a mission to Egypt, but without salary; and having no means of his own, he was thus qualified to become successful. He explored the remains of Egyptian civilization, imbedded since thousands of years in the sand. He brought so many relics to light, that the local government prohibited their exportation, considering that after obelisks, Cheops itself might be in due time spirited away. Mariette turned smuggler; he executed hieroglyphics of his own, and presented these Wardour St. antiquities to the Egyptian government, while he exported the real slabs in sacks of barley to Monsieur Louvre, at Paris. Such is the way the Egyptian Gallery in the Louvre Museum has been formed. Egypt was ever famed for its corn.

A wife, from Nancy, was deserted by her husband, who eloped with a mistress; she came to Paris and dashed vitriol in the face of her rival. The jury acquitted her. A petition was read from her three children, the eldest only 13 and the youngest but 9, who signed by its mark, asking the judge to restore them their good mamma.

Miser to millionaire: "I do not like to give a sou to a beggar; it might humiliate him."

"Conductor," said a man, placing a franc secretly in his hand, "my fare, and—give me the change." Conductor has not yet regained his breath.

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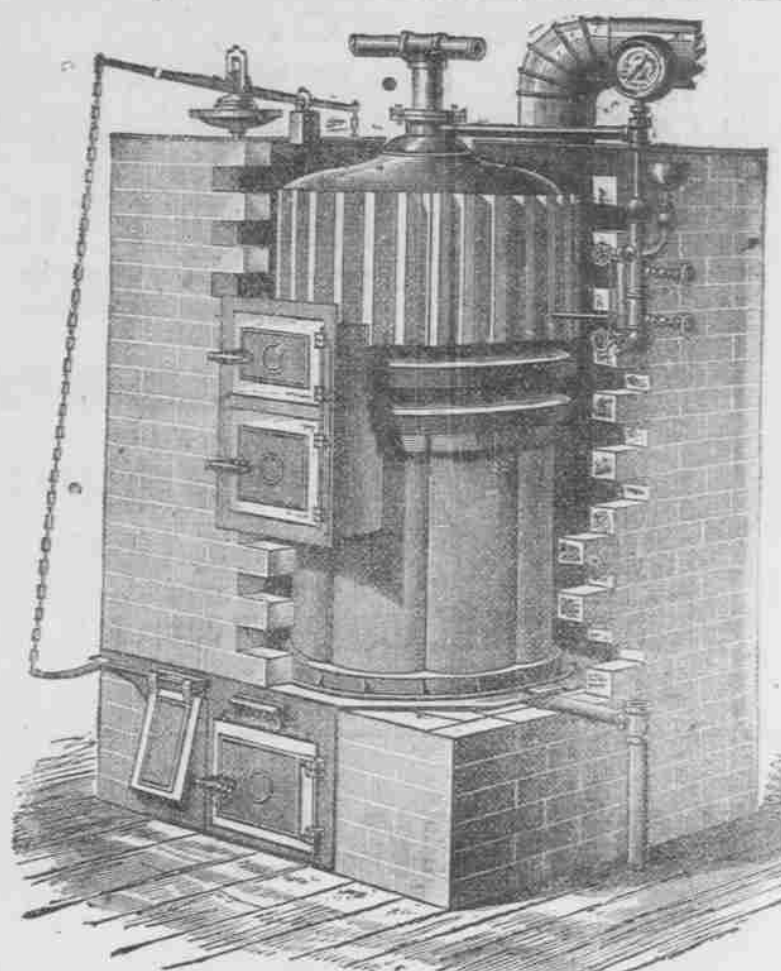
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